

OSCOLDCROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1942, which has been made brief in view of the prevailing circumstances.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District	33,970 acres.
Population, mid-year, Registrar General's estimate	7,281
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1942	2,120
Rateable Value	£28,945
Sum represented by 1d Rate	£113

The population figures show a reduction of 350, more than wiping out the increase shown last year. These are probably not stable figures but variations due to movements of people into and out of the District in connection with war circumstances.

The number of persons in the District under the Evacuation Schemes was reduced from 278 in January to 148 in December.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	62	71	133
Illegitimate	2	3	5
	<u>64</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>138</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 18.95

Still Births

Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births 21.27  
Rate per 1,000 population .41

DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes	49	39	88

Death Rate per 1,000 population - 12.08

Puerperal causes	0	0	0
Cancer	7	4	11
Measles	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births - 58  
There were no deaths amongst Illegitimate Infants.



The Birth Rate 18.95 is appreciably higher than that for the country which is 15.8. The Rate for the District again shows a slight increase, and that for the country is also an increase on the preceding year.

The Death Rate for the country at 11.6 is below that for the preceding year (12.9), and that for this District also shows a slight decrease on last year's figures (from 12.58 to 12.08) although it is slightly higher than that for the country.

Of the 71 deaths registered in the District 21 of the persons had reached the age of 75. One of these was 92 and seven others were between 80 years and 90 years old. The coincidence of so many aged persons dying this year may account for the death rate being slightly higher than that for the country.

The Infantile Death Rate for the country is 49, a decrease on last year. The Rate for this District decreased from 67.57 last year to 58 this year.

There were no deaths from Diarrhoea of children under 2 years old.

These vital statistics may be regarded as quite satisfactory.

#### Principal causes of Death

Again the cause of the highest number of deaths was Heart Disease, which numbered 26. Deaths from Pneumonia increased to 7 and Bronchitis was down from 6 to 5. Cancer accounted for 11 deaths being 5 less than last year.

#### Infectious Diseases

	<u>No. of cases</u> <u>Notified</u>	<u>No. of Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	14	0
Whooping Cough	3	0
Diphtheria	11	1
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0
Measles	8	0
Pneumonia	12	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0
<u>Tuberculosis</u>		
Pulmonary	2	1
Other forms	3	1

A big drive for the immunising against Diphtheria of children attending schools in the District was undertaken during the year.

The following table is a record of the work accomplished to 31st December, 1942:-



<u>School</u>	<u>No. on roll</u>	3. <u>No. immunised</u>	<u>Percentage immunised.</u>
Beal	106	64	60.4
Brotherton	248	177	71.0
Barton Salmon	45	37	82.0
Cridling Stubbs	25	21	84.0
Darrington	55	49	89.0
East Hardwick	38	36	94.0
Fairburn	145	105	72.4
Hensall	115	107	93.0
Monk Fryston	90	65	72.2
Whitley	83	67	80.7
Womersley	53	42	79.25

This gives an average of 77% of children attending school now immunised.

In addition to the above 112 children under school age received complete immunisation treatment. The estimated number of children in the District under the age of 5 is 510, showing 25.74% immunised.

Further efforts are to be made to increase this percentage.

This gratifying position has not been attained without some effort and trouble on the part of others as well as myself, and I wish to thank the teachers, Members of the Council and others concerned for the valuable help and co-operation accorded me in this respect.

#### Scabies.

Complaints of Scabies have become prevalent and it is desirable that some provision be made for treatment at a cleansing centre. Inquiries are being made in this regard and it is hoped that some such arrangement will be made in the near future.

The war or other circumstances<sup>do not</sup> appear to have appreciably affected the general health of the community, which has been well maintained.

Sanitary Circumstances and some other matters are dealt with in the report of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ledwith.

There being no other matter calling for comment at the moment I conclude by again thanking you for consideration shown to me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(J. KEHELLY)

Medical Officer of Health.



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OSGOLDCROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1942.

NUISANCES

Number of primary inspections		222
Number of cases in which nuisance found	196	
Number outstanding 1941	<u>14</u>	210
Abated 1942		<u>199</u>
Outstanding . . . . .		11

No Statutory Notices were served.

The number relating to defective conditions at houses was 196.

HOUSING

Action under Housing Acts and Regulations

Number of houses inspected and recorded	22
Three defective, remainder satisfactory.	
Six houses in respect of which Demolition Orders had previously been made were demolished.	
Demolition Orders were made in respect of 3 other houses, 2 of which were vacated	

Action under Public Health Acts in addition to action as mentioned under "Nuisances."

Houses examined for vermin	3
Disinfested	3
Houses inspected in connection with water supply, sanitary accommodation, etc.....	62
Houses at which work required or undertaken	41
Houses at which work completed.	30

No Statutory Notices were served.

There were no houses erected during the year.

The number of houses in the District at the end of the year was 2132.

WATER

There have been no major extensions or other developments regarding water supplies. A number of houses have been added to the total already taking supplies from the Council's mains. Quantities have been fully maintained and adequate. Quality in respect of piped supplies has continued satisfactory. Of two private wells, each serving a single house, which were found unsatisfactory under analysis one remained unsatisfactory at the end of the year.

The greater part of the District continues to be supplied from the Pontefract Corporation Water Works. Six samples of this water taken from various parts of the District at intervals through the year were submitted for bacteriological examination, one of which was reported unsatisfactory. Check samples, however, and the rest of the samples were reported satisfactory.

The greater part of the Parish of Darrington is served by a private estate water works from which samples have been periodically submitted for bacteriological examination and found satisfactory.

A group of houses at Cridling Stubbs and a small group at Hillam, where the private well supplies were not satisfactory, had supplies laid on to them from the Council's mains. The Council contributed in the latter case which involved a very long length of piping.



About 81% of the houses are now supplied by mains water, in most cases to a tap inside but in a few cases to a tap outside serving a single house or a group of houses. A further 2% of the houses are supplied by water under pressure by means of mechanically operated pumps and elevated tanks, supplying single houses or groups up to 14.

### SCAVENGING

The Karrier Bantam refuse removal vehicle delivered at the end of last year was put into use at the beginning of the year, taking the place of the hired open vehicle previously in use. This has proved satisfactory in use and complaints in respect of the scavenging service have been negligible, contrary to our experience under the contract method formerly in operation.

Difficulty was experienced by the occupiers in the developing residential area of Byram-cum-Sutton in disposing of their refuse and public scavenging of the Parish was commenced in August.

This additional work and arrangements for separating salvage material retarded the work of emptying ashpits somewhat but it is expected that they will be emptied frequently enough to keep them in reasonable condition.

Five water-closets were constructed to replace other closets and one was constructed as additional accommodation. No Council contribution was paid in respect of these.

At the end of the year there were in the District approximately 1593 water-closets, 1211 other closets and 1680 dust bins.

### SALVAGE

Although a certain amount of material is now collected with the refuse, salvage remains a separate service. Bags with special holders carried by the refuse vehicle have been the means of gathering in a good quantity of material which would otherwise only have been collected at greater transport costs.

Much time has had to be spent on organising and supervising collections and expenses have been high in proportion to the value of the material. The need for the material being paramount, however, efforts were made to obtain as much as possible and about the same total weight was collected as last year. There was an increase in the value of the material sold of over £98 and on the year's operation there was a gain of £2.

The materials sold in the year ended 31st March 1943 were:-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwf.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Paper and cardboard	20	19	1	2
Textiles (mixed rags, old sacking and carpets etc.)	3	16	2	20
Bones		17	1	6
Tins (mostly flattened)	14	3	2	0
Other iron	15	8	3	0
Other metals		7	3	1
Broken bottle glass	12	13	2	0
Rubber	2	18	2	18
Glass bottles and jars	28	gross.		

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever cases numbered 17, 3 less than last year. The first case occurred in January and there was not another till May. Three was the highest number in any month and 3 the highest number in any Parish.

There was one more case of Diphtheria than last year making 11. Three of the cases occurred together in one family, the remainder of the cases being scattered as to time and location.

The 5 new cases of Tuberculosis (2 respiratory and 3 other forms) though 2 more than last year were a small total.

Cases of Measles and Whooping Cough were also few in number.

Other cases of Infectious Disease scarcely call for comment, being so few.

Disinfection was carried out at 23 houses and 2 schools.

It was not necessary to close any school.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There is now no slaughtering of animals for food in the District, this being done under Government direction outside the District.

Conduct of the butchers' business within the District has been satisfactory, and I saw no meat apart from that mentioned following that was not sound and wholesome.

One 6lb. can of cooked meat and 30 dozen eggs were surrendered on account of unsound condition and it is understood that larger quantities have been delivered to retailers in this condition and have had to be destroyed.

#### MILK and DAIRIES.

There have been some changes amongst Registered Milk Producers, war circumstances having induced some to give up the business and others to go into or expand the business.

There were Registered some 87 Producers, 41 carrying on a Wholesale trade, 20 a Retail trade ( a few doing both ) and the remainder making butter or selling small quantities of milk locally. There were 116 cowsheds housing some 604 cows.

There were 3 producers of Accredited Milk, one of whom died during the year and it is feared the licence will not be renewed. One Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk was in force.

Visits numbering 208 were paid to premises where most called for. General conditions continued very fair but hardly up to pre-war standard, though there were cases where occupiers could well be commended.

In some cases the premises of new entrants pressed into war time service were not satisfactory and difficulty is experienced in getting requisite structural improvements carried out.

Amongst work carried out was:

Cowshed enlarged and remodelled and a milk room adapted and equipped	
	with cooler
Cowshed enlarged and improved and yard improved	1
Milk room constructed and cooler installed	1
Milk room constructed and cooler transferred	4
	1

Other work has been arranged for but wartime circumstances are creating difficulties in getting it carried out.

The continued difficulty in getting structural work carried out has very much limited repairs and improvements to houses and also to dairy and other buildings, and results in these directions do not reflect the efforts expended.



The Emergency Mortuary at Whitley is kept ready for use should it unfortunately be required. The Permanent Mortuary at Brotherton has been in use in the normal way several times and is satisfactory and of great usefulness.

A scheme for the treatment of foodstuffs which may become contaminated by war gas has been developed in conjunction with the Pontefract Corporation and the Featherstone and Knottingley Urban District Councils. A decontamination station has been established in Pontefract.

Much time has been taken up by salvage operations, perusal of official circulars, filling in forms, etc; and being deprived of assistance I have had to spend so much time on this and other indoor work that work in connection with the normal duties of the appointment has been much curtailed. To enable the work to be fully carried out some clerical assistance at least should be provided.

GORDON LEDWITH

Sanitary Inspector.